affiliated to it. Presently in CRPF, there are 18 Group Centres out of which some have only 2 or 3 affiliated Bns. A proposal to upgrade all the Group Centres to have 4 affiliated Bns., is under consideration. The implementation of SIU report has been kept pending till a decision is taken on upgradation of Group Centres.

(d) On implementation of SIU report, 1985, the problem of stagnation in the Ministerial Cadre will be removed to some extent. Further, when the SIU recommendations 1985. are implemented, Ministry of Finance will be requested to detail SIU to conduct work study of IsGP/DIsGP and Battalions offices etc., and this way, there seems to be every possibility to improve the promotional avenues in the combatised Ministerial cadre. 48 posts have recently been sanctioned in the Pay & Accounts Office of CRPF upto 30-6-1988.

Visits of Foreign Trade Teams

3652. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the foreign trade teams which visited India during the last three months; and

(b) whether some agreements have been signed with them; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excise concessions to Small Scale Units

3653. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the recent change in the rules regulating excise concessions to small scale industries using other companies' brand names and state:

(a) whether a small scale unit can use the brand name of another small scale unit which is availing concessions as a small scale unit; and

(b) if so, whether the sales of both the units will be clubbed to determine whether it is below Rs. 1.5 crores (the limit for small scale concessions)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The eligibility limit for availing of the concession for the small scale sector and the extent of availment would depend upon the actual clearance made by that unit alone.

Competition in International Tea Market

3654. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is facing tough competition from several countries especially from China and Sri Lanka in the international tea market; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation so as to enable the country to market Indian tea at a competitive price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Despite severe competition from Sri Lanka and Kenya, India is maintaining a much higher unit value realisation than these countries as revealed in figures below. China is traditionally an exporter of green tea.

	(*Dollar per Kg.*)	
	1985	1986
India . . .	2.63	2.27
Sri Lanka . .	2.22	1.58
Kenya . . .	1.85	1.83

The following major steps have been initiated for enhancing exports of Indian teas and value added teas.

1 Tea Board have been undertaking generic and uninational promotional campaign in different countries for promotion of export of tea.

2. Excise duty rebate 50 paise on all teas exported.

3. Full excise duty rebate on teas going into packets as well as the duty on packets.

4. Provision of 10 per cent of FOB realisation for advertising and promotion by individual companies abroad.

5. Sanction of schemes under the Brand promotion Fund and under Warehousing Subsidy Scheme.

6. A Committee to formulate long-term strategy and plan for tea has been constituted.

7. A National Committee on Tea Research has been constituted.

8. A Rs. 10 crores Corpus of tea Research has been initiated.

9. Leading Tea Exporters have been asked to draw up their export plan as a part of their corporate plan for the next 5 years.

Issue of New Import/Export Code Number

3655. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry has represented about the difficulties being faced by it in obtaining new Import/Export code number if so, what are its main grievances;

(b) what was the procedure till now and what are the changes envisaged in the new procedure; and

(c) whether the new procedure has put the importers/exporters to great difficulty and whether in view of this Government propose to streamline and simplify the procedure and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The main grievance is that the application from for the allotment importer/exporter code is cumbersome and that the documents to be attached with the application are not at all necessary and useful in issue of IEC number.

(b) and (c) In terms of Import-Export procedure 1985-88 every person importing goods into India require importer code number unless specifically exempted by the C.C.I. & E. With a view to integrate the various computerised sub-system in the office of C. C. I. & E. Importer/Exporter Code number will be allotted to all those who are required to interact with Import Trade Control Organisaion w.e.f. 1-4-88. The application form has been devised keeping in view the minimum information required for computerised operation.